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the end of the reporting week, as instructed by the Regional Administrator. For the purposes of this paragraph (f)(2)(i), the date when fish are offloaded will establish the reporting week or month the VTR must be submitted to NMFS, as appropriate. Any fishing activity during a particular reporting week (i.e., starting a trip, landing, or offloading catch) will constitute fishing during that reporting week and will eliminate the need to submit a negative fishing report to NMFS for that reporting week. For example, if a vessel issued a NE multispecies permit; Atlantic herring permit; or Atlantic mackerel, longfin squid, *Illex* squid or butterfish permit; begins a fishing trip on Wednesday, but returns to port and offloads its catch on the following Thursday (i.e., after a trip lasting 8 days), the VTR for the fishing trip would need to be submitted by midnight Tuesday of the third week, but a negative report (i.e., a “did not fish” report) would not be required for either earlier week.

(ii) Surfclam and ocean quahog log reports, required by paragraph (b)(1)(ii) of this section, must be postmarked or received within 3 days after the end of each reporting week.

(3) *At-sea purchasers and processors.* With the exception of the owner or operator of an Atlantic herring carrier vessel, the owner or operator of an at-sea purchaser or processor that purchases or processes any Atlantic herring, Atlantic mackerel, squid, butterfish, scup, or black sea bass at sea must submit information identical to that required by paragraph (a)(1) of this section and provide those reports to the Regional Administrator or designee by the same mechanism and on the same frequency basis.

(g) *Additional data and sampling.* Federally permitted dealers must allow access to their premises and make available to an official designee of the Regional Administrator any fish purchased from vessels for the collection of biological data. Such data include, but are not limited to, length measurements of fish and the collection of age structures such as otoliths or scales.

(h) *At-sea monitor/electronic monitoring reports.* Any at-sea monitor assigned to observe a sector trip and any third-

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party service provider analyzing data from electronic monitoring equipment deployed on a sector trip must submit reports on catch, discard, and other data elements specified by the Regional Administrator to NMFS, the sector manager, and monitoring contractor, as instructed by the Regional Administrator.

[61 FR 34968, July 3, 1996]

EDITORIAL NOTE: For FEDERAL REGISTER citations affecting § 648.7, see the List of CFR Sections Affected, which appears in the Finding Aids section of the printed volume and at www.fdsys.gov.

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 79 FR 51506, Aug. 29, 2014, § 648.7 was amended by revising paragraphs (a)(1)(iii) and (b)(1)(iii), effective Sept. 28, 2014 through Apr. 30, 2015.

§ 648.8 Vessel identification.

(a) *Vessel name and official number.* Each fishing vessel subject to this part and over 25 ft (7.6 m) in registered length must:

(1) Affix permanently its name on the port and starboard sides of the bow and, if possible, on its stern.

(2) Display its official number on the port and starboard sides of the deckhouse or hull, and on an appropriate weather deck so as to be clearly visible from enforcement vessels and aircraft. The official number is the USCG documentation number or the vessel's state registration number for vessels not required to be documented under title 46 U.S.C.

(b) *Numerals.* Except as provided in paragraph (d) of this section, the official number must be displayed in block arabic numerals in contrasting color at least 18 inches (45.7 cm) in height for fishing vessels over 65 ft (19.8 m) in registered length, and at least 10 inches (25.4 cm) in height for all other vessels over 25 ft (7.6 m) in registered length. The registered length of a vessel, for purposes of this section, is that registered length set forth in USCG or state records.

(c) *Duties of owner.* The owner of each vessel subject to this part shall ensure that—

(1) The vessel's name and official number are kept clearly legible and in good repair.

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(2) No part of the vessel, its rigging, its fishing gear, or any other object obstructs the view of the official number from any enforcement vessel or aircraft.

(d) *Non-permanent marking.* Vessels carrying recreational fishing parties on a per capita basis or by charter must use markings that meet the above requirements, except for the requirement that they be affixed permanently to the vessel. The non-permanent markings must be displayed in conformity with the above requirements.

(e) *New Jersey surfclam or ocean quahog vessels.* Instead of complying with paragraph (a) of this section, surfclam or ocean quahog vessels licensed under New Jersey law may use the appropriate vessel identification markings established by that state.

[61 FR 34968, July 3, 1996, as amended at 76 FR 60649, Sept. 29, 2011]

§ 648.9 VMS vendor and unit requirements.

(a) *Approval.* The type approval requirements for VMS MTUs and MCSPs for the Northeast Region are those as published by the NMFS Office of Law Enforcement in the FEDERAL REGISTER, and are available upon request. Both the minimum national standards and any established regional standards must be met in order to receive approval for use in the Northeast Region. The Regional Administrator shall ap-

prove all MTUs and MCSPs operating in the Northeast Region.

(b) *Maintenance.* Once approved, VMS units must maintain the minimum standards for which they were approved in the type approval requirements. Any changes made to the original submission for approval of an MTU or MCSP by NMFS must follow the procedures outlined in the type approval requirements.

(c) *Notification.* A list of approved VMS vendors will be published on the Northeast Regional Office Web site and in each proposed and final rule for implementing or modifying VMS requirements for specific fisheries.

(d) *Revocations.* In the event that a VMS vendor is deleted from the list of approved vendors, vessel owners that purchased a VMS unit from that vendor to meet Northeast requirements will be considered authorized to use that unit for the remainder of the unit's service life.

[74 FR 20530, May 4, 2009]

§ 648.10 VMS and DAS requirements for vessel owners/operators.

(a) *VMS Demarcation Line.* The VMS Demarcation Line is defined by straight lines connecting the following coordinates in the order stated (a copy of a map showing the line is available from the Regional Administrator upon request):

VMS DEMARCATION LINE

| Description | N. lat. | W. long. |
|--|----------|----------|
| 1. Northern terminus point (Canada landmass) | 45°03' | 66°47' |
| 2. A point east of West Quoddy Head Light | 44°48.9' | 66°56.1' |
| 3. A point east of Little River Light | 44°39.0' | 67°10.5' |
| 4. Whistle Buoy "8BI" (SSE of Baker Island) | 44°13.6' | 68°10.8' |
| 5. Isle au Haut Light | 44°03.9' | 68°39.1' |
| 6. A point south of Monhegan Island | 43°43.3' | 69°18.6' |
| 7. Pemaquid Point Light | 43°50.2' | 69°30.4' |
| 8. A point west of Halfway Rock | 43°38.0' | 70°05.0' |
| 9. A point east of Cape Neddick Light | 43°09.9' | 70°34.5' |
| 10. Merrimack River Entrance "MR" Whistle Buoy | 42°48.6' | 70°47.1' |
| 11. Halibut Point Gong Buoy "1AHP" | 42°42.0' | 70°37.5' |
| 12. Connecting reference point | 42°40' | 70°30' |
| 13. Whistle Buoy "2" off Eastern Point | 42°34.3' | 70°39.8' |
| 14. The Graves Light (Boston) | 42°21.9' | 70°52.2' |
| 15. Minots Ledge Light | 42°16.2' | 70°45.6' |
| 16. Farnham Rock Lighted Bell Buoy | 42°05.6' | 70°36.5' |
| 17. Cape Cod Canal Bell Buoy "CC" | 41°48.9' | 70°27.7' |
| 18. A point inside Cape Cod Bay | 41°48.9' | 70°05' |
| 19. Race Point Lighted Bell Buoy "RP" | 42°04.9' | 70°16.8' |
| 20. Peaked Hill Bar Whistle Buoy "2PH" | 42°07.0' | 70°06.2' |
| 21. Connecting point, off Nauset Light | 41°50' | 69°53' |
| 22. A point south of Chatham "C" Whistle Buoy | 41°38' | 69°55.2' |
| 22. A point in eastern Vineyard Sound | 41°30' | 70°33' |
| 24. A point east of Martha's Vineyard | 41°22.2' | 70°24.6' |